United Nations A/56/561/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98 (a)

Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item 98 (a) was taken at the 22nd and 40th meetings, on 5 November and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.22 and 40).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.11 and A/C.2/56/L.71

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/56/L.11), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its organizational session,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

01-69609 (E) 151201

"*Encouraging* countries and relevant regional and international organizations to support the preparatory processes,

"*Welcoming* the preparatory activities undertaken at the national level, encourages all countries to energize this work and calls on the United Nations system to support such activities,

"*Welcoming also* the activities of major groups related to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Encouraging* new initiatives that would contribute to the full implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and other relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development through strengthening global commitments, including partnerships between Governments of the North and the South on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups on the other,

"*Expressing its appreciation* of the work undertaken by South Africa and Indonesia as the host Governments of the Summit and of the fourth session of the preparatory committee at the ministerial level,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Approves* the provisional rules and procedures of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its organizational session;

"3. *Requests* the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit to decide on all remaining issues related to the organization of work of the Summit, including specific details of the series of events to be held in partnership with stakeholders, the short multi-stakeholder event involving the highest level of representation from major groups and Governments and the round-table meetings to be held at the level of heads of State or Government;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to launch a comprehensive and proactive public information campaign with sufficient financial resources to raise global awareness of the World Summit on Sustainable Development while also building broad international support for the World Summit and its goals;

"5. *Invites* donors to continue providing extrabudgetary resources in support of the preparatory activities for the Summit, as well as the travel of representatives from the developing countries to attend the sessions of the preparatory committee and the Summit;

"6. *Calls upon* relevant regional and international organizations to further step up their efforts to assist countries in completing their national assessment reports in time;

"7. *Reiterates* that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection since these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

"8. *Encourages* the active involvement of all relevant regional and international agencies and organizations to provide input and contributions to the preparatory process of the World Summit;

"9. *Emphasizes* that the outcome of all intergovernmental processes relevant to the World Summit be submitted as input for consideration by the preparatory committee, in conformity with the decision taken at its organizational session;

"10. *Reiterates* the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee as the sole global intergovernmental process for the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and emphasizes the mandate and role of its Bureau, as stipulated by the General Assembly in resolution 55/199 and the decisions adopted by the preparatory committee at its organizational session;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21", taking into account the outcome of the World Summit."

3. At its 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/56/L.19).

4. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/56/L.71), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11.

5. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee stated that the programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/56/L.19 applied equally to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71 (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71 (see para. 10).

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Canada (also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand) and Japan (see A/C.2/56/SR.40). After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Brazil, Nigeria and Egypt (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Documents relating to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

9. At its 40th meeting, on 12 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development on its organizational session[1] (see para. 11).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its organizational session,[2]

Encouraging countries and relevant regional and international organizations to support the preparatory processes,

Welcoming national preparations for the Summit, including those at the local level, through the establishment of preparatory committees, with the participation of Governments and other stakeholders, the undertaking of national assessments and the initiation of other preparatory activities, encouraging all countries to intensify that work and calling on the United Nations system to support such activities,

Also welcoming the activities of major groups related to the preparations for the Summit, and encouraging them to carry out further preparatory activities,

Further welcoming the valuable contributions from the preparatory activities undertaken at the subregional and regional levels, as well as from other relevant initiatives undertaken at the international level,

Encouraging new initiatives that would contribute to the full implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[4] and other relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by strengthening commitments at all levels, including by reinvigorating, at the highest political level, global commitment and partnerships,

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/56/19).

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/56/19), chap. VIII, sect. B.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] Ibid., annex I.

especially between Governments of the North and the South, on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups on the other,

Expressing its appreciation for the work undertaken by South Africa and Indonesia as the host Governments, respectively, of the Summit and the fourth session of the preparatory committee at the ministerial level,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Approves* the provisional rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit at its organizational session;[6]

3. *Decides* that the Summit will be open to all States Members of the United Nations and States Members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences and with the rules of procedure of the Summit;

4. *Decides* that the Summit shall be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, with the participation of heads of State and Government during the period 2 to 4 September;

5. *Reiterates* that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection since they are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;

6. *Invites* countries to be represented at the highest political level at the Summit;

7. *Requests* the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit to decide on all remaining issues related to the organization of work of the Summit, including specific details of the series of events to be held in partnership with stakeholders, the short multi-stakeholder event involving the highest level of representation from major groups and Governments and the round-table meetings to be held at the level of heads of State or Government;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to launch a public information campaign to raise global awareness of the Summit, including through reprioritization of the budget of the Department of Public Information and voluntary contributions;

9. *Invites* donors to continue providing extrabudgetary resources, in particular through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, in support of the preparatory activities for the Summit and the Summit itself, and to support the travel and participation of representatives of developing countries, particularly from the least developed countries, and encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups from developing countries;

10. *Encourages* all countries to complete their national assessment reports, and in that regard calls upon relevant regional and international organizations to

---

[5] A/56/379.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/56/19), chap. VIII, sect. A, draft resolution, annex.

further step up their efforts to assist developing countries in the elaboration of those assessment reports;

11. *Encourages*, at the national level, the active involvement of all government agencies responsible for economic development, social development and environmental protection, and invites them to provide coordinated inputs and contributions to the preparatory process of the Summit;

12. *Encourages* the active involvement of all relevant regional and international agencies and organizations, and invites them to provide input and contributions to the preparatory process of the Summit;

13. *Encourages* effective contributions from and the active participation of all major groups, as identified in Agenda 21,[3] at all stages of the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as its established practices for the participation and engagement of major groups;

14. *Reiterates* the invitation to all intergovernmental processes relevant to the Summit to submit their progress reports to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its second session (28 January-8 February 2002) and their final results to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its third session (25 March-5 April 2002), so that they can be fully considered in the preparatory process;

15. *Reiterates* the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee in the global intergovernmental process for the preparation of the Summit, and in that context recalls the mandate and role of its Bureau, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/199 and the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee at its organizational session;[2]

16. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to raise international awareness on the Summit;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the outcome of the Summit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21", taking into account the outcome of the Summit.

* * *

11. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Documents relating to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly decides to take note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development on its organizational session.[7]

---

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/56/19).

United Nations A/56/561/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98 (b)

Environment and sustainable development: international strategy for disaster reduction

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 22nd, 25th, 36th and 39th meetings, on 5 and 6 November and 4 and 11 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.22, 25, 36 and 39).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.12 and A/C.2/56/L.46

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, China and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/56/L.12), which read:

> "*The General Assembly,*
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999 and 55/197 of 20 December 2000 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

01-69425 (E) 141201

"*Noting* that the signing of the memorandum of cooperation between the Republic of Ecuador and the World Meteorological Organization constitutes a major step in the process for the establishment of the international centre for the study of the El Niño phenomenon,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

"1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Commends* the measures adopted by the host country for the establishment of the international centre for the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

"3. *Calls* upon the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the establishment of the above-mentioned research centre at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for that purpose;

"4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the working group on climate and disasters and invites the Inter-agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to ensure functional synergies among the working groups dealing with climate variability, economic and social vulnerability and effectiveness of early warning systems;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/220 and 55/197 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46, 1999/63 and 2000/33;

"6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development'."

3. At the 36th meeting, on 4 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/56/L.46), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.12.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.46 (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.12 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.15 and A/C.2/56/L.62

6. At the 25th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, China and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/56/L.15). Subsequently, Canada and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998 and 54/219 of 22 December 1999, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001,

"*Also recalling* the forward-looking platform for international concerted disaster reduction as developed by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and as expressed in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, as well as the Geneva mandate on disaster reduction and the strategy document entitled 'A safer world in the twenty-first century: risk and disaster reduction',

"*Emphasizing* the multisectoral, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of natural disaster reduction, and stressing that continued interaction, cooperation and partnerships among the institutions concerned are considered essential to achieve jointly agreed objectives and priorities,

"*Having considered* the current institutional arrangement, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/219 of 22 December 1999, with the Inter-agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and taking into account the assessment after the first period of operations,

"*Recognizing* that disaster reduction is an important element contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and that it should be taken into account in the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg in 2002,

"*Reiterating* that natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, although the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper their sustainable development,

"*Welcoming* the emphasis placed on natural disaster reduction in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,

"*Recognizing* that disaster reduction should be regarded as an important function of the United Nations and should receive continued attention,

"*Stressing* the need for the international community to demonstrate the firm political determination required to utilize scientific and technical

knowledge to reduce the vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental hazards, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"2. *Expresses* deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries;

"3. *Reaffirms* that the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction should perform the functions indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, in particular those of serving as a main forum in the United Nations system for devising strategies and policies for disaster reduction and ensuring complementarity of action by agencies involved in disaster reduction, mitigation and preparedness, and decides to review the activities of the Task Force in 2003;

"4. *Decides* that the Task Force should be modified in order to provide for the increased participation, on a permanent basis, of regional intergovernmental organizations and to ensure the continued membership of the key United Nations agencies;

"5. *Recognizes* that the framework of action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as endorsed by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, constitutes the basic guide for the implementation of the Strategy, and that the framework shall be periodically reviewed according to the evolving needs in the field of natural disaster reduction and, in this context, urges all relevant bodies within the United Nations system to cooperate fully within the context of the framework;

"6. *Further stresses* that the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy should be strengthened to effectively perform its functions, in particular to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster-reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields;

"7. *Calls* upon Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts with the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective synergies in the field of natural disasters, and urges the secretariat for the Strategy to develop such synergies, as appropriate;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources for the effective functioning of the Task Force and the secretariat, under the direct authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat;

"9. *Calls* upon Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for these mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the secretariat for the Strategy in order to

ensure appropriate support by the United Nations system for these mechanisms;

"10. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen national participation, in particular of disaster-prone countries, in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, including through national multisectoral and interdisciplinary platforms, in order to achieve sustainable development goals and objectives, with the full utilization of scientific and technical knowledge, including through capacity-building at all levels and the development and strengthening of global and regional approaches that take into account regional, subregional, national and local circumstances and needs, as well as the need to strengthen coordination of national emergency response agencies;

"11. *Calls* upon Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in the field of natural disasters within the framework of the Strategy, based upon an effective division of labour, from prevention to early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction, including through capacity-building at all levels, and the development and strengthening of global and regional approaches that take into account regional, subregional, national and local circumstances and needs, as well as the need to strengthen coordination of national emergency response agencies in natural disasters;

"12. *Recognizes* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizes the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to effectively tackle natural disasters;

"13. *Urges* the international community to increase financial contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and to provide adequate scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the secretariat for the Strategy, the Task Force and its working groups;

"14. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to support achievement of the goals of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, including by seconding technical staff to the secretariat for the Strategy;

"15. *Endorses* the proposal of the Secretary-General to review the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, within the context of the framework for action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to optimize further and disseminate through all available channels, including handbooks and information systems, the information necessary for the effective management of international cooperation in the fields of disaster prevention, early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

"17. *Reiterates* the need to continue international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, within the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as requested by the Economic

and Social Council in its resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 2000/33 of 28 July 2000 and by the General Assembly resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185, 54/220 of 22 December 1999 and 55/197 of 20 December 2000;

"18. *Recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element in the culture of prevention, and encourages renewed efforts at all levels to contribute to natural hazard monitoring and impact prediction, the development and transfer of technology, capacity-building for disaster preparedness, the detection of natural hazards and the issuance and communication of early warning, as well as education and professional training, public information and awareness-raising activities, and stresses the need for appropriate action in response to early warning;

"19. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen the international framework for the improvement of early warning systems and disaster preparedness by developing an effective international mechanism for early warning, including the transfer of technology related to early warning to developing countries which ensures that vulnerable people receive appropriate and timely information, and by expanding and improving existing systems, in particular those under the auspices of the United Nations, as an integral part of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"20. *Decides* to maintain the annual observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on the second Wednesday of October as a vehicle to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness;

"21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, under the agenda item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the progress made in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction."

7. At the 39th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/56/L.62), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.15.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.62 (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.62, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.15 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999 and 55/197 of 20 December 2000 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Noting that the signing of the memorandum of cooperation between Ecuador and the World Meteorological Organization[1] constitutes a major step in the process for the establishment of the international centre for the study of the El Niño phenomenon,

Also noting the contributions made by regional and global climate-study organizations and specialized Internet information services, which have led to improved scientific understanding and prediction capabilities in the area of climate variability,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Commends* the measures adopted by the host country for the establishment of the international centre for the study of the El Niño phenomenon, and encourages the Government of Ecuador to continue its efforts aimed at the completion of this process;

3. *Encourages* the centre, once established, to strengthen its links with other relevant regional and global climate-study organizations, as well as with Internet information services, in order to ensure an effective and efficient use of the available resources;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community, to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the establishment of the above-mentioned research centre at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

5. *Welcomes* the establishment of the working group on climate and disasters, and invites the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to ensure functional synergies among the working groups dealing with climate variability, social and economic vulnerability, and the effectiveness of early warning systems;

---

[1] A/C.2/56/2, appendix.

[2] A/56/76-E/2001/54.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/220 and 55/197 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46, 1999/63 and 2000/33;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

Draft resolution II
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998 and 54/219 of 22 December 1999 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001,

Also recalling the forward-looking platform for international concerted disaster reduction, as developed by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction and as expressed in the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,[3] as well as the Geneva mandate on disaster reduction and the strategy document entitled "A safer world in the twenty-first century: risk and disaster reduction",[4]

Emphasizing the multisectoral, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of natural disaster reduction, and stressing that continued interaction, cooperation and partnerships among the institutions concerned are considered essential to achieve jointly agreed objectives and priorities,

Having considered the current institutional arrangement, as established in its resolution 54/219 of 22 December 1999, with the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and taking into account the assessment after the first period of operations,

Recognizing that disaster reduction is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development and that it should be taken into account in the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002,

Reiterating that natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, although the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper their sustainable development,

Welcoming the emphasis placed on natural disaster reduction in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted by

[3] A/CONF.172/9, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Adopted by the programme forum on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Geneva from 5 to 9 July 1999.

the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,[5]

Recognizing that disaster reduction should be regarded as an important function of the United Nations and should receive continued attention,

Stressing the need for the international community to demonstrate the firm political determination required to utilize scientific and technical knowledge to reduce the vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental hazards, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[6]

2. *Expresses deep concern* at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction should perform the functions as indicated in the report of the Secretary General,[6] in particular those of serving as a main forum within the United Nations system for devising strategies and policies for disaster reduction and ensuring complementarity of action by agencies involved in disaster reduction, mitigation and preparedness, and decides to review the activities of the Task Force in 2003 and that the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy should also develop collaborative links with appropriate regional disaster reduction organizations;

4. *Decides* that the Task Force should be modified in order to provide for the increased participation and continued membership of regional intergovernmental organizations and key United Nations agencies;

5. *Recognizes* that the framework of action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as endorsed by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, constitutes the basic guide for the implementation of the Strategy, and that the framework shall be periodically reviewed, according to the evolving needs in the field of natural disaster reduction, and urges all relevant bodies within the United Nations system to cooperate fully within the context of the framework;

6. *Stresses* that the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy should be consolidated and enhanced to effectively perform its functions, in particular to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster-reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts with the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective synergies in the field of natural disasters, and urges the secretariat for the Strategy to develop such synergies, as appropriate;

---

[5] A/CONF.191/11.

[6] A/56/68-E/2001/63.

8. *Invites* therefore all Governments and relevant international organizations to give appropriate consideration to the issue of natural disaster reduction in their preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002;

9. *Underlines* the importance of adequate financial and administrative resources for the effective functioning of the Task Force and the secretariat, under the direct authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the secretariat for the Strategy in order to ensure such support;

11. *Invites* Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen national participation, in particular of disaster-prone countries, in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, including through national multisectoral and interdisciplinary platforms, in order to achieve sustainable development goals and objectives, with the full utilization of scientific and technical knowledge, including through capacity-building at all levels and the development and strengthening of global and regional approaches that take into account regional, subregional, national and local circumstances and needs, as well as the need to strengthen the coordination of national emergency response agencies;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in the field of natural disasters within the framework of the Strategy, in line with their respective skills and capacities, from prevention to early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction, including through capacity-building at all levels, and the development and strengthening of global and regional approaches that take into account regional, subregional, national and local circumstances and needs, as well as the need to strengthen the coordination of national emergency response agencies in natural disasters;

13. *Recognizes* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizes the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to effectively tackle natural disasters;

14. *Calls upon* Governments and United Nations agencies to collaborate more closely in the sharing of disaster response and mitigation information, to take full advantage of United Nations emergency information services such as ReliefWeb, as well as the Internet, and to consider other methods for the sharing of information;

15. *Calls upon* the secretariat for the Strategy and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to facilitate the development of better linkages with all relevant actors, including the private sector and financial institutions, in the development of disaster management strategies;

16. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and to provide adequate scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the secretariat, the Task Force and its working groups;

17. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to support the achievement of the goals of the Strategy, including by seconding technical staff to the secretariat for the Strategy;

18. *Endorses* the proposal of the Secretary-General to review the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action,[3] within the context of the framework for action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to optimize further and disseminate through all available channels, including handbooks and information systems, the information necessary for the effective management of international cooperation in the fields of disaster prevention, early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

20. *Reiterates* the need to continue international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, within the framework of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 2000/33 of 28 July 2000 and by the General Assembly in its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999 and 55/197 of 20 December 2000;

21. *Recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element in the culture of prevention, and encourages renewed efforts at all levels to contribute to natural hazard monitoring and impact prediction, the development and transfer of technology, capacity-building for disaster preparedness, the detection of natural hazards and the issuance and communication of early warning, as well as education and professional training, public information and awareness-raising activities, and stresses the need for appropriate action in response to early warning;

22. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen the international framework for the improvement of early warning systems and disaster preparedness by developing an effective international mechanism for early warning, including the transfer to developing countries of technology related to early warning, which ensures that vulnerable people receive appropriate and timely information, and by expanding and improving existing systems, in particular those under the auspices of the United Nations, as an integral part of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

23. *Decides* to maintain the annual observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction on the second Wednesday of October, as a vehicle to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including prevention, mitigation and preparedness;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, under the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including criteria and modalities for the selection of the non-permanent members of the Task Force, and on the progress made in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

United Nations A/56/561/Add.3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98 (c)

Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item 98 (c) was taken at the 25th and 40th meetings, on 6 November and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.25 and 40).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.17/Rev.1 and A/C.2/55/L.70

2. At the 25th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/56/L.17/Rev.1), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 55/204 of 20 December 2000 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

01-69639 (E) 151201

"*Noting with satisfaction* that, as indicated in paragraph 1 of its resolution 55/204, the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held in Bonn from 11 to 22 December 2000,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Germany for the generous manner in which it hosted and provided facilities for the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties,

"*Noting with satisfaction* that the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 12 October 2001,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Switzerland for the organization of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties as well as its special events,

"*Welcoming* the strong appeal made to the Global Environment Facility Council by the President of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly urging the international community to designate the Facility as the financial mechanism of the Convention,

"*Also welcoming* the insistent call made by the Secretary-General for the Convention to be provided with a financial mechanism similar to the one that the international community has identified for its two sister Conventions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and also for the new Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

"*Further welcoming* the decision taken by the Council of the Facility at its May 2001 session related to the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a focal area of the Facility as a means of enhancing its support for the successful implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

"*Acknowledging* that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world, and that joint actions of the international community are needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought, including the integration of strategies for poverty eradication,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Welcomes* the outcome of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, in particular the adoption of the Declaration on the Commitments to Enhance the Implementation of the Obligations under the Convention;

"3. *Also welcomes* the outcome of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"4. *Notes with satisfaction* the establishment of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, and invites Parties and other actors to participate in

the first session of the Committee, which shall be held from 18 to 29 November 2002, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision 2/COP.5 of 12 October 2001;

"5. *Invites* the next Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to be held in October 2002 in Beijing, to designate desertification as a focal area of the Facility and to identify the Facility as the principal financial mechanism for the implementation of the Convention;

"6. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the Convention of the Panel of Eminent Personalities to consider the effective and timely implementation of the Convention, and invites the co-organizers of the Panel to transmit the outcome of its work to the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"7. *Invites* the World Summit on Sustainable Development to take into account, in the course of its deliberations during the preparatory process and the Summit itself, the challenges of and opportunities in combating desertification, controlling land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought in affected developing countries, including those relating to financial resources and achieving sustainable development, taking into consideration the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

"8. *Notes with appreciation* that some affected developing countries have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes, and therefore calls upon the international community to contribute to the implementation of those programmes through, inter alia, the conclusion of partnership agreements, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention and contributions from non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

"9. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps being taken by affected developing country parties to the Convention, with the assistance of international organizations and bilateral development partners, to implement the Convention, and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of civil society in the elaboration and implementation of national action programmes to combat desertification, and in this regard encourages countries to cooperate at the subregional and regional levels, as appropriate;

"10. *Calls upon* Governments, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

"11. *Decides* to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003 the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

"12. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to implement decision 2000/23 of 29 September 2000 of its Executive Board

pertaining to the cooperation between the Programme and the secretariat of the Convention;

"13. *Approves* the continuation of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the United Nations Secretariat and the permanent secretariat of the Convention for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties not later than 31 December 2006;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa'."

3. At its 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.17/Rev.1, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/56/L.51).

4. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/56/L.70), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.17/Rev.1.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee informed the Committee that the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/56/L.51 applied equally to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.70 (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.70 (see para. 9).

7. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/56/SR.40). After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Nigeria (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.70, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.17/Rev.1 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/204 of 20 December 2000 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1]

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Germany for the generous manner in which it hosted and provided facilities for the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Noting with satisfaction that the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 12 October 2001,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for the organization of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties and its special events in Geneva,

Welcoming the decision taken by the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its May 2001 session to pursue the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a focal area of the Facility, as a means of enhancing its support for the successful implementation of the Convention,

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world, and that joint actions of the international community are needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought, including the integration of strategies for poverty eradication,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the outcome of the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, in particular the adoption of the Declaration on the Commitments to Enhance the Implementation of the Obligations under the Convention;

3. *Also welcomes* the outcome of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

4. *Notes* the establishment of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, and invites Parties and other actors to participate in the first session of the Committee, which shall be held from 18 to 29 November 2002, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision 2/COP.5 of 12 October 2001;

5. *Also notes* that the mandate and functions of the Committee shall be subject to renewal at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, in the light of lessons learned during the overall review of the Committee;

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] A/56/175.

6. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to and the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[3] the Convention on Biological Diversity,[4] the Convention to Combat Desertification and other international instruments related to environment and sustainable development, as well as relevant organizations, especially the United Nations Environment Programme, with, as appropriate, the involvement of the Environmental Management Group, to continue their work towards enhancing complementarities among them, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of those conventions at the international, regional and national levels and to report thereon to their respective conferences of the parties;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification to submit to the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as inputs, the Chairman's summary of the ministerial and high-level interactive dialogue sessions held at the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, which includes the challenges of and opportunities in combating desertification, controlling land degradation and mitigating the effects of drought in affected developing countries, including those relating to financial resources and achieving sustainable development, and the comprehensive report of the ad hoc working group for the in-depth review and analysis of reports submitted at the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Also welcomes* the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility, under agenda item 7 of its meeting in December 2001, to consider at its next meeting proposed amendments to the instrument to designate land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as a focal area of the Facility, as a means of enhancing its support for the successful implementation of the Convention with a view to the Council recommending approval of such amendments by the Assembly of States participating in the Facility at its meeting in October 2002;

9. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties and the Council and Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to work cooperatively and effectively to facilitate the financing of the full implementation of the Convention by the Facility to achieve the objectives of the Convention in the area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation;

10. *Notes with appreciation* that some affected developing countries have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes, and urges affected developing countries that have not yet done so to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes with a view to finalizing them as soon as possible;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to contribute to the implementation of those programmes through, inter alia, the conclusion of partnership agreements, and through the bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention, including contributions

[3] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1.

[4] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

from non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and to support the efforts of the developing countries to implement the Convention;

12. *Invites* affected developing countries to place the implementation of their action programmes to combat desertification high among their priorities in their dialogue with their development partners;

13. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps being taken by affected developing countries that are parties to the Convention, with the assistance of international organizations and bilateral development partners, to implement the Convention, and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of civil society in the elaboration and implementation of national action programmes to combat desertification, and in that regard encourages countries to cooperate at the subregional and regional levels, as appropriate;

14. *Welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism, and encourages further efforts in that regard for the effective implementation of the Convention;

15. *Invites* all Parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2002-2003, and urges all Parties that have not yet paid their contributions for the year 1999 and/or the biennium 2000-2001 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

16. *Calls upon* Governments, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

17. *Decides* to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

18. *Encourages* the United Nations Development Programme to continue implementing decision 2000/23 of 29 September 2000 of its Executive Board pertaining to the cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and the United Nations Development Programme in order to mainstream activities to combat desertification at the national, subregional and regional levels;[5]

19. *Approves* the continuation of the current institutional linkage, and related administrative arrangements between the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the Convention for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties not later than 31 December 2006;

[5] See DP/2000/1, para. 231.

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

United Nations A/56/561/Add.4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98 (d)

Environment and sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 22nd and 38th meetings, on 5 November and 10 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.22 and 38).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.9 and A/C.2/56/L.58

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/56/L.9) entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity", which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 55/201 of 20 December 2000 on the Convention on Biological Diversity, in which it proclaimed 22 May, inter alia, the date of the adoption of the text of the Convention, as the International Day for Biological Diversity,
>
> "*Recognizing* the importance of the adoption by the Conference of the Parties, in its decision EM-I/3 of 29 January 2000, of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the subsequent

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

01-69401 (E) 151201

signature of the Protocol up to 2 July 2001 by one hundred parties to the Convention and the ratification made by five of these parties to the Convention,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the generous offer of the Government of the Netherlands to host the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, which will be held at The Hague from 8 to 26 April 2002,

"*Also expressing its appreciation* for the kind offer of the Government of Germany to host the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, which addresses the appropriate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of its utilization, held at Bonn from 22 to 26 October 2001,

"*Urging* the parties to the Convention to undertake thorough preparations to advance progress at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to decide upon the outstanding issues that are included in its agenda,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

"2. *Takes note also* of the outcome of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol, held at Nairobi from 1 to 5 October 2001;

"3. *Urges* Member States that have not joined the Convention on Biological Diversity to become parties to it, without further delay;

"4. *Calls upon* Member States that are parties to the Convention to sign and ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as soon as possible;

"5. *Invites* all funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the programme of work;

"6. *Requests* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development when setting the dates of meetings of the conferences of the parties so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"7. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to settle urgently any arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner so as to ensure continuity in the cash flows required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

"8. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

"9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'."

3. At the 38th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/56/L.58), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.9.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.58 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.58, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.9 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/201 of 20 December 2000 on the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1] in which it, inter alia, decided to proclaim 22 May, the date of the adoption of the text of the Convention, as the International Day for Biological Diversity,

Recognizing the importance of the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in its decision EM-I/3 of 29 January 2000,[2] of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the subsequent signature of the Protocol by one hundred and three parties to the Convention by 5 June 2001, and the ratification thereof or accession thereto by seven parties to date,

Expressing its appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of the Netherlands to host the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol, which will be held at The Hague from 8 to 26 April 2002,

Urging the parties to the Convention to undertake thorough preparations to advance progress on all issues that are included in the agenda of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;[3]

2. *Notes* the outcome of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, which addresses the appropriate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out

[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[3] See A/56/126.

of its utilization, hosted by the Government of Germany from 22 to 26 October 2001;

3. *Also notes* the outcome of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held at Nairobi from 1 to 5 October 2001;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that one hundred and eighty-one States and one regional economic integration organization have become parties to the Convention and urges States that have not joined the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] to become parties to it, without further delay;

5. *Calls upon* parties to the Convention to become parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[2] as soon as possible;

6. *Encourages* the conferences of the parties to, and the secretariats of, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[4] the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[5] and other international instruments related to environment and sustainable development, as well as relevant organizations, especially the United Nations Environment Programme, including, as appropriate, the involvement of the Environmental Management Group, to continue their work on enhancing the complementarities among them, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of those conventions at the international, regional and national levels and to report thereon to their respective conferences of the parties;

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties regarding its programme of work for forest biological diversity, and encourages the parties to and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to cooperate with the United Nations Forum on Forests, inter alia, with regard to respecting, preserving and maintaining the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, in accordance with article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention;

8. *Takes note* of the fact that the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[6] and the Convention are interrelated, in particular with respect to intellectual property rights and relevant provisions of the Convention, and invites the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization, within their respective mandates, to continue to explore this relationship, taking into account the ongoing work in other relevant forums and bearing in mind decision V/26 B of the Conference of the Parties;[7]

---

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[6] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[7] See UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23 and Corr.1, annex III.

9. *Invites* all funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the programme of work;

10. *Requests* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development when setting the dates of meetings of the conferences of the parties so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

11. *Calls upon* parties to the Convention to settle urgently any arrears and to pay their contributions in full and in a timely manner so as to ensure continuity in the cash flows required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

12. *Looks forward* to the contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the preparations of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind the decisions taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session;

13. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

United Nations A/56/561/Add.5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98 (e)

Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 25th and 37th meetings, on 6 November and 7 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.25 and 37).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.16/Rev.1 and A/C.2/56/L.53

2. At the 25th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/56/L.16/Rev.1), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

01-69413 (E) 151201

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997, 53/189 of 15 December 1998, 54/224 of 22 December 1999 and 55/202 of 20 December 2000,

"*Recalling further* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Recalling also* the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,

"*Recognizing* that, in addition to the general problems of development, small island developing States experience specific problems arising from their smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, limited fresh water supply, heavy dependence on imports and limited commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources and migration,

"*Recognizing also* the efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system,

"*Welcoming* the report of the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in December 2000, and the report of the third Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change, energy and preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in Cyprus in January 2001,

"*Noting* the significant efforts to implement the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, including through necessary financial support from the international donor community,

"*Acknowledging* the efforts of small island developing States to convene, in cooperation with the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a series of capacity-building workshops targeted at issues of specific relevance to small island developing States,

"*Welcoming* the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Welcoming also* the offer of the Government of Jamaica to host the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on trade, sustainable development and small island developing States in December 2001,

"*Noting* the current efforts of the Alliance of Small Island States to organize an interregional preparatory meeting of small island developing

States for the World Summit for Sustainable Development, to be held in Singapore in January 2002, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of resolution 2001/PC/1 of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Emphasizing* the critical need for the financing of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States, held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,

"*Noting with appreciation* the contribution by some donor countries towards further implementation of the Programme of Action, and underlining the need for those efforts to be intensified and supplemented by other donor countries and agencies,

"*Noting* the work being undertaken by the Committee for Development Policy and other international organizations on a vulnerability index, which incorporates, inter alia, environmental and economic vulnerability factors,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for strong and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to assist small island developing States in their efforts to enhance their capacities to effectively mitigate the impacts of globalization and achieve sustainable development;

"3. *Welcomes* efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

"4. *Invites* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to reflect measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes;

"5. *Calls upon* donors, as well as all relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations and other regional and international organizations, to support the interregional preparatory meeting of small island developing States to be held in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"6. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action;

"7. *Urges* all relevant organizations, in particular the Committee for Development Policy, to finalize as a matter of urgency the work on the development of a vulnerability index to assist affected developing countries, in particular small island developing States, in bringing resolution to their concerns;

"8. *Welcomes* the strengthened Small Island Developing States Unit of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to consider ways to further strengthen the Unit, inter alia, by establishing the Small Island Developing

States Information Network within the Unit and by assisting small island developing States with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short and long-term capacity needs through coordination with regional and international institutions, and to make proposals in that regard;

"9. *Calls on* the Secretary-General to consider further ways and means of increasing and improving the United Nations system-wide coordination of and dissemination of information on activities in support of small island developing States and the Programme of Action, through the Small Island Developing States Unit, including an inter-agency task force to carry out these tasks;

"10. *Welcomes* the contributions of donor countries to the strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit and SIDSnet, and encourages other Member States to make contributions, in particular in support of the Small Island Developing States Information Network;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States';

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 7 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/56/L.53), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.16/Rev.1.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.53 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.16/Rev.1 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997, 53/189 of 15 December 1998, 54/224 of 22 December 1999 and 55/202 of 20 December 2000,

Recalling further the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling the Declaration[3] and review document[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Recalling also the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,[4]

Recognizing that, within the context of the challenges of development, small island developing States can experience specific problems arising from smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, limited freshwater supply, heavy dependence on imports and limited commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources and migration,

Recognizing also the efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to continue to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral trading system,

Noting the report of the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[5] held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in December 2000, and the report of the third Alliance of Small Island States workshop on climate change, energy and preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[6] held in Cyprus in January 2001,

Noting the significant efforts to implement the Programme of Action at the local, national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, including through necessary financial support in partnership with the international community,

Acknowledging the efforts of small island developing States to convene, in cooperation with the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a series of capacity-building workshops targeted at issues of specific relevance to small island developing States,

Welcoming the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

---

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[4] TD/390.

[5] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[6] E/CN.17/2001/11, annex.

Welcoming also the offer of the Government of Jamaica to host the first Alliance of Small Island States workshop on trade, sustainable development and small island developing States in December 2001,

Noting the current efforts of the Alliance of Small Island States to organize an interregional preparatory meeting of small island developing States for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Singapore in January 2002, and calling upon all relevant international organizations actively to support the meeting,

Emphasizing the continuing need for the financing of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States, held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,[7]

Noting with appreciation the contribution made by some donor countries towards further implementation of the Programme of Action, and underlining the need for those efforts to be intensified and supplemented by other donor countries and agencies,

Emphasizing the need to complete, without delay, the quantitative and analytical work on the vulnerability index mandated in the review document of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/43 of 24 October 2001, particularly its paragraph 6, and emphasizing the relevance of such work to the work of the Committee for Development Policy on criteria for the identification, including designation and graduation, of least developed countries and its importance to relevant small island developing States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for strong and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] and of the Declaration[3] and review document[3] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to assist small island developing States in their efforts to enhance their capacities to achieve sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

4. *Invites* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to reflect measures for the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes;

5. *Invites* donors, as well as all relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations and other regional and international organizations, to provide appropriate support to the interregional preparatory meeting of small island developing States for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

6. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action;

---

[7] See A/S-22/4.

[8] A/56/170.

7. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize, as a matter of urgency, the work on the development of a vulnerability index, taking into account the special circumstances and needs of small island developing States;

8. *Welcomes* the strengthened Small Island Developing States Unit of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to consider ways to strengthen the Unit further, inter alia, by establishing the Small Island Developing States Information Network within the Unit and by assisting small island developing States with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short- and long-term capacity needs through coordination with regional and international institutions, and to make proposals in that regard;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to consider further cost-effective ways and means of increasing and improving the United Nations system-wide coordination and dissemination of information on activities in support of small island developing States and the Programme of Action, through the Small Island Developing States Unit, including concrete measures for improving coordination within the United Nations system;

10. *Welcomes* the contributions of donor countries to the strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit and the Small Island Developing States Network, and encourages other Member States to make contributions, in particular in support of the Network;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/56/561/Add.6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98 (f)

Environment and sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 35th and 40th meetings, on 30 November and 12 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.35 and 40).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.41 and A/C.2/56/L.77

2. At the 35th meeting, on 30 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/56/L.41), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995, 51/184 of 16 December 1996, 52/199 of 18 December 1997 and 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and other relevant resolutions

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

01-69633 (E) 151201

relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

"*Noting* that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

"*Noting also* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention has so far attracted 43 ratifications, and encouraging necessary action to facilitate the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol at the earliest possible date, before the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002,

"*Noting further* its adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which Heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Morocco for hosting the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Marrakesh from 29 October to 9 November 2001,

"*Taking note* of the adoption of the Bonn Agreements on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action at the second part of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, convened in Bonn from 16 to 27 July 2001,

"*Taking note also* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session to approve the continuation of the current institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and related administrative arrangements for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention by not later than 31 December 2006,

"*Taking note further* of the report of the Secretary-General on the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations,

"*Taking note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention whereby the General Assembly is invited to decide at its fifty-sixth session on the issue of meeting the conference-servicing expenses of the Convention from its regular budget, taking into account the views expressed by Member States,

"*Noting* also that, by paragraph (c) of its decision 55/443, it decided to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, which was prepared in response to the invitation of the General Assembly in paragraph (d) of its decision 55/443,

"1. *Urges* Member States to ratify or to accede to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to ensure its entry into force, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in 2002;

"2. *Calls upon* all States parties to continue to take effective steps to implement their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

"3. *Takes note* of the Marrakesh Accords adopted at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, complementing the Bonn Agreements on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, paving the way for the timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol;

"4. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the secretariats of the multilateral conventions, within the mandate given by their respective conferences of parties, to promote sustainable development by strengthening complementarities and improving the scientific assessment of ecological linkages between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

"5. *Approves* the continuation of the institutional linkage of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to the United Nations, and related administrative arrangements, for a further five-year period;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the functioning of that institutional linkage not later than 31 December 2006, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

"7. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"8. *Also invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 12 December, the Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/56/L.50).

4. Also at the 40th meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global

climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/56/L.77), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41.

5. At the same meeting, the Secretary informed the Committee that the programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/56/L.50 applied equally to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77.

6. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/56/SR.40).

7. Also at the 40th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77 (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995, 51/184 of 16 December 1996, 52/199 of 18 December 1997 and 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Noting that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island States, face increased risk from the negative impacts of climate change,

Noting that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] has attracted forty-five ratifications,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Morocco for hosting the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at Marrakesh, Morocco, from 29 October to 10 November 2001,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.
[2] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3.

Noting the adoption of the Bonn Agreements[3] on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action[4] by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at the second part of its sixth session, held at Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 27 July 2001,

Expressing its appreciation to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for its excellent work in preparing the Third Assessment Report, and encouraging parties to make full use of the information contained in the Third Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Taking note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session to approve the continuation of the current institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the related administrative arrangements for a further five-year period, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention no later than 31 December 2006,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations,[5]

Taking note further of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention inviting the General Assembly to decide at its fifty-sixth session on the question of meeting the conference-servicing expenses of the Convention from its regular budget, taking into account the views expressed by Member States,

Noting that, by paragraph (c) of its decision 55/443, it decided to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[6] which was prepared in response to the invitation of the General Assembly in paragraph (d) of its decision 55/443,

1. *Recalls* the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[7] in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, and calls upon States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

2. *Calls upon* all States parties to continue to take effective steps to implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

3. *Stresses* the importance of capacity-building, as well as of developing and disseminating innovative technologies in respect of key sectors of development, particularly energy, and of investment in this regard, including through private

[3] FCCC/CP/2001/5, decision 5/CP.6.
[4] FCCC/CP/1998/16/Add.1, decision 1/CP.4.
[5] A/56/385.
[6] See A/56/509.
[7] Resolution 55/2, para. 23.

10. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

United Nations A/56/561/Add.7

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98 (g)

Environment and sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 22nd and 38th meetings, on 5 November and 10 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.22 and 38).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.8 and A/C.2/56/L.57

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/56/L.8), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000 on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

01-69492 (E) 151201

"*Recalling also* resolution 14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-ninth session in November 1997,

"*Reaffirming* that the convening at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development was adopted and preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 approved, was a step in pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21, which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

"*Emphasizing* that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 aims at encompassing all forms of new and renewable energy, including solar, thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, mini-hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms,

"*Recalling* resolution 19 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirtieth session in November 1999, concerning the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005, which constitutes one of the major programmes of universal value of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (to be revised in the light of the outcome of the thirty-first session),

"*Reiterating* that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are imperative in the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology for the application of cost-effective energy and the wider use of environment-friendly, renewable energies,

"*Acknowledging* that the General Assembly continues to play an important role in promoting the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

"*Acknowledging also* that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussions on new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

"*Welcoming* the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session in New York in April 2001 that Governments develop energy services, particularly in remote and rural areas and small island developing States, through, inter alia, where appropriate, the development of renewable energy sources,

"*Welcoming also* the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development that Governments, inter alia, remove barriers to the implementation of policies for renewable energy development in remote and rural areas and small island developing States and promote rural community participation,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the continued efforts of the Secretary-General in bringing the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 to the attention of relevant sources of funding and technical assistance,

"*Calling* for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is fully integrated into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development,

"*Emphasizing* that the achievement of more substantive results in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 will require the active involvement of all concerned parties, including Governments, multilateral funding agencies and relevant bodies within the United Nations system,

"1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on concrete action being taken for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, and welcomes in particular the attempt therein to analyse and discuss the obstacles and constraints impeding the promotion of new and renewable source of energy and options for action to overcome them;

"2. *Notes with appreciation* the role that the World Solar Commission continues to play in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects and renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

"3. *Notes* that although significant financial support has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, more action still needs to be taken in this regard;

"4. *Urges* national Governments and relevant stakeholders to make more use of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 as one of the vehicles to boost the development and utilization of solar energy technologies;

"5. *Invites* the international community to support, as appropriate, including by providing financial resources, the efforts of developing countries to move towards sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption;

"6. *Recognizes* that rural energy services, including their financing, should be designed to maximize local ownership, as appropriate;

"7. *Reiterates its call upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

"8. *Also reiterates its call upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of adequate technical assistance and funding and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

"9. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of sustainable energy development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and manpower resources for accelerating research efforts;

"10. *Recognizes* that the wider use of available renewable energy technologies requires the diffusion of available technologies on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation;

"11. *Notes with appreciation* the lead role that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization continues to play in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in particular its efforts, in association with multilateral partners and national specialized institutions, to enhance bilateral and regional cooperation through the co-organization of regional and subregional business and investment forums;

"12. *Takes note* of the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the contribution of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development, and encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in this context, to mobilize resources, both human and financial, as mandated, to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme and make efforts to promote public awareness in all Member States in this regard, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private;

"13. *Invites* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make effective the implementation of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in the different regions and to strengthen the implementation of all its chapters;

"14. *Encourages* the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy to continue its efforts to ensure that the work of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is fully integrated into the mainstream of efforts of the United Nations system to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and to coordinate the contributions of all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 2002;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on concrete action being taken for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the effective implementation of, and mobilization of resources for, the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005'."

3. At the 38th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/56/L.57), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.8.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.57 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000 on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

Recalling also resolution 14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-ninth session in November 1997,[1]

Reaffirming that the convening at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development[2] was adopted and preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005[3] approved, was a step in pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21,[4] which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is aimed at encompassing all forms of new and renewable energy, including solar, thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, mini-hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms,

---

[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth session, Paris, 21 October-12 November 1997*, vol. I: *Resolutions*.

[2] A/53/395, annex, sect. II.

[3] Ibid., annex, sect. VD.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

3. *Notes* that although significant financial support has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, more action still needs to be taken in this regard;

4. *Encourages* national Governments and relevant stakeholders to make more use of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 as one of the vehicles to boost the development and utilization of solar energy technologies and all forms of new and renewable energy, including biomass, wind, mini-hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal;

5. *Invites* the international community to support, as appropriate, by, inter alia, providing financial resources, the efforts of developing countries to move towards sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption;

6. *Recognizes* that rural energy services, including their financing, should be designed to maximize local ownership, as appropriate;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment friendly renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of adequate technical assistance and funding and to enhance the effectiveness, and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation, of national and regional high priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

9. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and manpower resources for accelerating research efforts;

10. *Recognizes* that the wider use of available renewable energy technologies requires the diffusion of available technologies on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation;

11. *Takes note* of the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the contribution of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development[5] and, in this context, encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to mobilize resources, both human and financial, as mandated, to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme and to make efforts to promote public awareness in all Member States in this regard, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private;

12. *Invites* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make effective the implementation of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in the various regions and to strengthen the implementation of its African chapter;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the concrete action being taken for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the effective implementation of and the mobilization of resources for the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005".

United Nations A/56/561/Add.8

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 98

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Jana **Simonová** (Czech Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on the item as a whole was taken at the 22nd, 26th, 36th and 39th meetings, on 5 and 9 November and on 4 and 11 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.22, 26, 36 and 39).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.10 and A/C.2/56/L.48

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Tajikistan, on behalf also of the Russian Federation, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003" (A/C.2/56/L.10). Armenia and Japan subsequently joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000, in which it proclaimed 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater,

"*Recalling also* chapter 18 of Agenda 21 relating to protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources, as well as chapter 13, entitled 'Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development', and taking into account that 80 per cent of accessible freshwater originates in mountains,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

01-69407 (E) 151201

"*Recalling further* Economic and Social Council resolution 53/199 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of international years,

"*Reaffirming* the target of reducing by half, between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of people who lack sustainable access to adequate sources of affordable and safe water,

"*Noting* the preparations for the Third World Water Forum, to be held at Kyoto, Japan, in March 2003, and the elaboration of the World Water Development Report,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003,

"1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by Governments, United Nations organizations, especially those represented on the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and non-governmental organizations in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Freshwater, especially as regards awareness-raising, and encourages them to continue and expand their efforts;

"2. *Encourages* all States, the United Nations system and other actors to take advantage of the International Year of Freshwater to raise awareness of the strategic importance of achieving sustainable development and use of the freshwater resources of the world, which are essential for satisfying basic human needs, health and food production, economic and social development and the preservation of ecosystems, and to assign high priority to the formulation and implementation of action-oriented policies and programmes for the sustainable use of freshwater for social and economic purposes;

"3. *Also encourages* all States, national and international organizations, major groups and the private sector to support local, national and international programmes and projects for the International Year of Freshwater, inter alia, through voluntary contributions;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session an interim report on the activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003."

3. At the 36th meeting, on 4 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003" (A/C.2/56/L.48), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.10.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.48 (see para. 12, draft resolution I).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Tajikistan made a statement (see A/C.2/56/SR.36).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.48, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.10 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.20 and A/C.2/56/L.65

7. At the 26th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session" (A/C.2/56/L.20), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 55/200 of 20 December 2000 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Recalling further* the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"*Taking note* of the progress being made by the United Nations Environment Programme in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session;

"2. *Welcomes* the efforts already made to realize the objectives of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, supports the early and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, and requests that the report of the Environmental Management Group be made available to the Member States;

"3. *Notes* the ongoing process initiated by decision 21/21 of 9 February 2001 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on establishing an open-ended intergovernmental group of ministers or their representatives on international environmental governance, whose outcome will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development for consideration at its third session;

"4. *Underlines* the need for sufficient financial resources on a stable and predictable basis to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider, with a view to strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme, a substantial increase in the budgetary allocation for the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2002-2003."

8. At the 39th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its

twenty-first session" (A/C.2/56/L.65), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.20.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.65 (see para. 12, draft resolution II).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.65, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.20 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Documents relating to environment and sustainable development

11. At its 39th meeting, on 11 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/56/115-E/2001/92 and Corr.1) (see para. 13).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000, in which it proclaimed 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater,

Also recalling the provisions of Agenda 21,[1] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[2] adopted at its nineteenth special session and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and those of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session[3] relating to freshwater,

Further recalling its resolution 53/199 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of international years,

Reaffirming the goal of reducing by half, between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water,

Noting the efforts for the preparations for the Third World Water Forum, to be held in Japan in March 2003, and for the elaboration of the World Water Development Report,

---

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29).

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003,[4]

1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by States, the United Nations Secretariat, organizations of the United Nations system that are engaged in inter-agency work related to freshwater and major groups in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Freshwater, and encourages them to continue their efforts;

2. *Encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and major groups to take advantage of the International Year of Freshwater, 2003, to raise awareness of the essential importance of freshwater resources for satisfying basic human needs, health and food production and the preservation of ecosystems, as well as for economic and social development in general, and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in this context calls for high priority to be given to the serious freshwater problems facing many regions, especially in the developing countries;

3. *Also encourages* all States, relevant international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the International Year of Freshwater, inter alia, through voluntary contributions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session an interim report on the activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003.

Draft resolution II
Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also its resolution 55/200 of 20 December 2000 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling further the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme[5] and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[6]

Taking note with appreciation of the progress being made by the United Nations Environment Programme in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

---

[4] A/56/189.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session;[7]

2. *Welcomes* the efforts already made to realize the objectives of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[5] supports the early and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999, and requests that the reports on the work of the Environmental Management Group be made available to the Member States and members of specialized agencies;

3. *Reiterates* the invitation to the international environmental governance process initiated by decision 21/21 of 9 February 2001 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to submit its progress report to the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its second session, to be held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 28 January to 8 February 2002, and to submit the final results to the Committee at its third session, to be held from 25 March to 5 April 2002, so that it may be fully considered in the preparatory process, and notes with interest the ongoing work of the open-ended intergovernmental group of ministers or their representatives on international environmental governance with respect to the comprehensive policy-oriented assessment of existing institutional weaknesses, as well as future needs and options for strengthened international environmental governance;

4. *Underlines* the need for sufficient financial resources on a stable and predictable basis to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and, within this context, notes ongoing related deliberations;

5. *Notes* the proposal of the Secretary-General to increase United Nations funding for the cost of servicing the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat and the Governing Council from the regular budget;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under continuous review and to make proposals as needed in the context of the United Nations regular budget, with a view to strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

* * *

13. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment.[8]

---

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/56/25).

[8] A/56/115-E/2001/92 and Corr.1.